

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4947

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008

LOSSES OF AGRICULTURAL FOOD ITEMS DUE TO LACK OF COLD STORAGES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a huge quantity of Agricultural Food items were wasted due to lack of refrigerated transport and cold storage facilities during the last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of value of food item wasted during the said period;
- (c) whether such wastage have added to food insecurity and price rise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken to evolve suitable policy on refrigerated transportation and cold storages to check such wastage?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): No statistics is collected by the Government for assessing the annual loss of agricultural food items wasted due to lack of refrigerated transport and cold storage facilities, however, under some studies, wastage of fruits and vegetables due to improper post-harvest management and lack of cold chain facilities, has been estimated to be to the extent of 25% to 30%, valued at Rs. 20,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore annually, as reported in the fifth and final report of the National Commission of Farmers.

(c) to (e): There are no reports that such wastage of perishable horticultural produce has added to food insecurity or price rise, however, studies indicate that if such wastage is prevented, it will help farmers in getting better value of their produce and will help consumers in getting horticultural products at lesser cost.

Government is providing financial assistance to the private sector and Government agencies for setting up cold chain infrastructure including refrigerated transport vehicles and different kinds of cold storages under the schemes of the National Horticulture Mission, National Horticulture Board, Ministry of Food Processing Industries etc. and also under the Central Sector Scheme of Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization being implemented by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection. In order to encourage private sector investment in this kind of infrastructure, the Government of India has formulated a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act and circulated to the State Governments for amending their concerned Acts, which has facilitated direct marketing, contract farming etc. in various States through such amendments, resulting into a growth of cold chain infrastructure.